

NIH POLICY MANUAL

3044-2 - PROTECTION OF NIH PERSONNEL WHO WORK WITH NONHUMAN PRIMATES

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1. **Explanation of Material Transmitted:** This chapter outlines the policy for protection of National Institutes of Health (NIH) personnel who work with or around nonhuman primates. Requirements are established for training, supervision, use of personal protective equipment, medical surveillance, accident reporting, and wound care.
2. **Filing Instructions:**

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A. Purpose:

Established under this chapter is the NIH policy for protection of NIH personnel who work with or around nonhuman primates. The policy describes the requirements for training, supervision, compliance, personal protective equipment, medical surveillance, accident reporting, and wound care. The intent of this policy is to minimize the overall number of injuries, specifically bites and scratches, sustained by NIH employees, special volunteers, and visitors who work with nonhuman primates or enter nonhuman primate rooms. Contractors engaging in activities with nonhuman primates must have a program in place with policies and procedures equivalent to the program described

herein. Project Officers for such contracts shall ensure that all contracts contain the equivalent components.

B. Policy and Procedures:

Training. Each individual regularly entering a nonhuman primate room shall have received introductory training prior to entry. Transient visitors will be supervised by someone with appropriate training. Those individuals having hands-on interaction with nonhuman primates must also have additional training in approaching and handling nonhuman primates. Certification by the first line supervisor that a basic level of performance has been achieved is required. The Training Coordinator, Office of Animal Care and Use (OACU/OD), is responsible for the development and management of the program for training intramural personnel to work safely and humanely with nonhuman primates.

Supervision and Compliance. All NIH employees, including special volunteers, guest workers, visitors, and contract personnel shall comply with procedures set forth in this policy statement. Immediate supervisors are responsible for ensuring that their employees follow established policy. Corrective action shall be taken by the immediate supervisor for failure to comply with the provisions of this policy.

Continued failure to comply with requirements set forth in this policy shall be reported to the Scientific Director and/or Institute Director and may result in suspension of the privilege to use nonhuman primates in research protocols or other disciplinary action. The Institutional Official for Animal Welfare Assurance (i.e., Deputy Director for Intramural Research) shall be informed of such infractions and disciplinary actions taken.

Personal Protective Equipment. All individuals entering a nonhuman primate room must wear appropriate personal protective clothing and equipment which meets or exceeds the guidance established by the NIH Animal Research Advisory Committee (ARAC) (Appendix 1). Guidance on the selection and use of personal protective equipment for selected protocols will be provided upon request, by the Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Division of Safety (OSHB, DS). The NIH Institutional Biosafety Committee (NIH IBC) shall advise on appropriate protective measures, as needed, at the request of the Division of Safety. Individuals participating in protocols involving infectious disease agents must meet or exceed practices and procedures recommended in the CDC/NIH publication entitled Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories and any additional stipulations placed on the protocol by the NIH IBC. Copies of THE CDC/NIH publication may be obtained by calling 496-2346. All support personnel, who have not been appropriately trained, (e.g. building engineers, pest controllers, safety and health personnel, etc.) entering nonhuman primate rooms must be accompanied by a responsible facility staff member who is knowledgeable in the behavior and handling of nonhuman primates.

Medical Surveillance. All persons having direct contact with nonhuman primates in the course of conducting research and all persons providing care must participate in the NIH Animal Exposure Surveillance Program (AESP). Transient visitors, who are

required to enter a room housing nonhuman primates but do not have direct contact with the animals, are not required to participate in the AESP but are to wear single-use dust/mist masks in addition to other required protective clothing. All contractor employees having direct contact with nonhuman primates must participate in an AESP that is equivalent to that of the NIH and which shall be provided by their employer.

Accident Reporting. All accidents and injuries involving animals, animal wastes, or potentially contaminated equipment must be reported promptly to the first-line supervisor. An individual who sustains any injury must report to the Occupational Medical Service (OMS) as soon as possible. The Division of Safety will regularly review accident/injury reports and make accident information available to the Training Coordinator, OACU, who will ensure that training will address identified problem areas.

Wound Care. Each nonhuman primate facility manager or ICD veterinarian, as applicable, is responsible for maintaining an adequately stocked wound care kit. The kit includes materials for culturing a wound, inflicted by a nonhuman primate, for Herpesvirus simiae also known as Monkey B virus. The wound care kit must be located in an easily accessible area, and instructions for culturing wounds, first aid, and reporting to OMS must be prominently displayed. The facility manager or veterinarian, as applicable, is responsible for informing all research and animal care staff of the location of the wound care kit. The procedures to be followed in the event of a nonhuman primate bite or scratch are described in the NIH Animal Exposure Surveillance Program (AESP).

C. Additional Information:

For further information on this manual chapter, contact the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use (496-5424).

D. Additional Copies:

Copies of this manual chapter may be obtained by completing Form NIH 414-5 and submitting it to the P&RB, DSS, ORS, in Bldg 31, Room B4BN08.

Appendix 1 - Minimum Requirements for Protective Clothing in Nonhuman Primate Rooms

Appendix 2 - Protective Clothing Requirements for Personnel in Nonhuman Primate Facilities

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